(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government propose to transfer the National Population Commission from the Planning Commission to Department of Family Welfare, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Family Welfare Programme in India is voluntary in nature, which enables couples to adopt the family planning methods, best suited to them, according to their own choice, without any compulsion. The Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme is the flagship programme of the Government which addresses the issues of contraception, maternal and child health simultaneously.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir. The transfer of the National Commission on Population (NCP) from the Planning Commission to the Department of Family Welfare would aviod duplication of funding and interventions for similar activities. It would also ensure improved coordination of planning and implementation between health and family welfare on one hand, and with the schemes of the related Departments on the other hand.

Development of HIV-I vaccine

965. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a research team in AIIMS had developed a vaccine for the DNA of HIV-I;

(b) if so, its efficiency on human clinical trials; and

(c) its efficiency over other available HIV vaccines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Department of Biotechnology is supporting National Reference Centre at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) for developing HIV vaccine. They have reported to have developed DNA re-combinant vaccine against HIV-I sub-type 'C'.

(b) Clinical trial of this vaccine has not yet started in human being. Therefore its efficacy on human cannot be commented upon.

(c) Efficiency of HIV vaccine can not be compared at present till data on human trial is available.

Review of Research Projects at AIIMS

966. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Director and Dean of AIIMS were to review the research projects on a half yearly basis to see the progress it has made on those projects and the expenditure incurred;

(b) whether it is also a fact that research projects and the expenditure incurred thereon have not been reviewed during the last ten years; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not carrying out any review of research projects as well as expenditure incurred?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Research project at All India Institute of Medical Sciences are managed by Research Committee under the Chairmanship of Dean. A Project Review Committee comprising Director, Dean, Coordinator (one of the members of the Research Committee) and invited experts reviews the completed research projects on a yearly basis. The Research Review Committee could not meet during the last five years due to some administrative problems. Research Committee and Research Review Committee have been reconstituted recently and the meeting is scheduled to be held in January-February 2005. Most of the research projects are carried out by AIIMS with funds received from agencies like ICMR, Deptt. of Biotechnology, Deptt. of Science and Technology, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, WHO and international agencies. On completion of the project, a final report is also submitted. The yearly financial audit of research funds is also carried out by Central Government Audit Authority.